

SUMMER
2022

THE BOXBOROUGH *Bee*



BE INFORMED • BE CONNECTED • BE BOXBOROUGH

Select Board's Corner

The Select Board is happy to welcome many new faces to Town Hall! Please welcome them and introduce yourselves if you get a chance. We have started the process of finding a new, permanent Town Administrator. We have hired a search firm, and are putting together a screening committee with stakeholders from various town boards and committees. We hope to have someone in place in the next few months to continue the work Carter and Rajon have done with our revised staffing plan and more.

It was wonderful to see new and familiar faces at our recent Annual Town Meeting. While there was a lot of vigorous discussion and lively debate, almost every article passed. Many people put in hours of work not only preparing for the meeting itself, but in their presentations.

The Select Board will continue to meet over Zoom while allowed by the governor, so please join us. We meet every other Monday, and meeting agendas and Zoom links are posted to the town's website.

As we head into the summer, a warm welcome to the return of Fifer's Day, the FreeBee market, the Memorial Day parade, and other new & established Boxborough traditions. We are a town of volunteers, with many opportunities to share your time & expertise.

Volunteers Needed for the Public Celebrations and Ceremony Committee

Do you love the community spirit in Boxborough? Here is a chance to be a part of keeping the town's spirit going while having fun in the process. The Boxborough Public Celebrations and Ceremony Committee (PCCC) is looking for new members. Marissa Picca has been a member for four years and she's ready to mentor a new team before she steps down. The PCCC hosts the Memorial Day parade, the Tree Lighting, and works with the Boxborough Minutemen for Fifer's Day. All the processes, contacts and timelines are documented so you are not reinventing the wheel. It's a great way for new folks, or newly retired, to join in the community fun. Sign up by contacting Town Hall directly or email pccboxborough@gmail.com.

About the Boxborough Bee

The Boxborough Bee is sponsored by the Well-Being Committee. If you would like to share ideas for articles, share feedback on this publication, or get involved please email the team at boxboroughbee@gmail.com.



New Faces at Town Hall

Kelsey Genetti, Department Assistant for the Recreation Commission

I am the Department Assistant for the Recreation Commission. I have always been involved in team sports. It was only natural to become part of a great Recreation Department. I am very excited to be part of such a great team and help build an even stronger community through sports and recreation. I also work as a Personal Trainer, participate in adult league sports, CrossFit Competitions and Obstacle Course Races. If I'm not on the competition floor, you can find me hiking with our dog, Miya.



Jared Aponte, Treasurer/Collector



I am the new Treasurer/ Collector for the Town. I grew up in Shirley and graduated from Ayer High School in 2010. I started my Municipal Finance career for the Town of Harvard in 2015 as a Finance Assistant and have climbed the ranks. I love working with numbers and helping residents in any way possible. It can be a challenging position, but also very rewarding. Boxborough is a great small Town and is in a transition of growth. I am looking forward to creating processes and procedures that will make things easier for all departments. I am a big tech person. I love using new gadgets and software. In my spare time, I love to be around family and friends. I also have two small dogs, Colby & Phoebe.

Kyungae Lim, Department Assistant for the Assessor's Office

I'm a Department Assistant in the Assessor's office. I started out as a volunteer with the Council of Aging, and applied for the position when it was posted. I'm most excited about getting to know how the town government works. I'm a long time town resident, but haven't set a foot in the town hall building for all these years. I find the folks working in the office are friendly and very helpful. I recently retired from a long career in software development. When not working, I enjoy gardening, hiking, and re-reading books on philosophy, for which I came to the States for a degree decades ago.



Kelley Price, Town Administrative Assistant



I saw this opportunity as a way to contribute to my community in a professional and personal way. As a resident of 13 years, I am very much invested in the Town of Boxborough. This is my third week here in Town Hall and I absolutely LOVE my Job! Every day has been exciting and rewarding-never the same day twice. Everyone from the Town Hall, Boards/Committees, and residents have welcomed me with open arms. I look forward every day to building more relationships here! Prior to this role, I was a stay home mom for nearly 10 years to my twins, Sophia and Julian. Every single day home with them was a blessing to me. I enjoy entertaining, cooking/baking, sewing, playing outdoors with my children, boating on Lake Winnepesaukee, and photography. We are a family who loves pets/animals. We have two parakeets, three cats, and lots of tropical fish at home. I even brought an African Dwarf Frog to the office for some fun! If you are in Town Hall or around the area, please come in and say hello to us!

IT'S BACK! THE 54TH WILL BE HELD

Planning is well underway for the 2022 Fifer's Day. Having missed two years due to COVID-19, there is much excitement for this well-known and well-loved Boxborough tradition. Boxborough will celebrate Fifer's Day on Saturday June 18th at Flerra Meadows on Stow Road in Boxborough. Fifer's Day is jointly sponsored by the Boxborough District Minuteman Company and the Town of Boxborough's Public Celebrations and Ceremonies Committee.

The Day commences at 9:30 am with the Fifer's Four Mile Road Race. This is followed by a parade from the Blanchard School to Flerra Meadows at 11:00 am and then presentation of the Golden Fife Award. The Fair will commence at noon and include food and barbecue, including a vegetarian option, children's games and activities, volleyball tournament, booths representing Town organizations, and a craft fair. There will be live music throughout the afternoon.

ANNUAL FIFER'S DAY SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH

What I Love About Fifer's Day

"I love that it's OUR town event, has lasted through so many generations and is still going strong! My parents were founding members of the Boxborough Minutemen and were both Golden Fife winners. My favorite memory is sitting in the fire station kitchen (it used to be called Fifer's Festival and was held there and at Blanchard) watching my mom and her friends mix up vats of barbecue sauce, potato salad and cole slaw while the men set up the charcoal grills. I can still smell those amazing scents!!!"

– **Kristen Hilberg, attendee "for literally my whole life" and parade participant**

"I love the informality of walking around outside with a beer and catching up with neighbors - plus the sense of community across so many booths with information about events, groups, and organizations in town. I also love that the entire event is so family-friendly that I feel safe letting my kids just run free. It is such a gem and truly a special aspect that is 'very Boxborough'. I can't wait to be back again this year."

– **Heather Fleming, attendee and exhibitor**

"I love the parade that goes past our house with SO many fire engines (even though sometimes it is too loud), helping mom and dad with their booth selling 'hyperlocal' jam to everybody, throwing balls at the dunk tank to drop teachers and kids into the water, and the cool kids' train made out of barrels that we get to ride in around the field."

– **Isobel Awtry, age 12, attendee and exhibitor**

"I took my big-city sister & her family to Fifer's Day one year. They loved the charm, sincerity, and friendliness, and it totally confirmed for them that Boxborough is like Star's Hollow from Gilmore Girls. From the parade to the Golden Fife ceremony to the strawberry shortcake, they loved every minute of it. I was so proud to show off Boxborough!"

– **Jennifer Campbell, attendee and Road Race participant**

"I love giving away free books and little toys, and library information."

– **Anne McNeece, volunteer at Friends of the Library table**

"Fifer's Day is an old-fashioned community fair translated to the 21st century. It's not high-powered or flashy; there are no midway or thrill rides. It's about friends and neighbors taking their time to get together to celebrate the end of the year/beginning of summer in a low-key environment with events to keep children occupied and booths for local non-profits to raise funds or display items and craft items."

– **John Fallon, Minuteman volunteer for 30+ years and recipient of the Golden Fife award in 2000**



Fifer's Day: A Boxborough Tradition



Fifer's Day 2022

is just around the corner. And no matter how many Fifer's Day festivals you have attended in the past, this one feels special. This year, after two years of cancelled celebrations, we all have a renewed appreciation for community – for our neighbors, for our local organizations, and for the opportunity to gather.

Fifer's Day is all about community. The festival started in 1967 to honor those from the Boxborough area who fought in the American Revolution and is anchored in a tradition of town-wide celebration that stretches back centuries.

The namesake fifer, as most know, is Luther Blanchard. In 1774, tension with England was escalating and eighteen-year-old Luther joined the Isaac Davis Minute Company in Acton. As a fifer, he led the minutemen marches by playing his small wind instrument alongside a company drummer. On April 19, 1775, young Luther marched with the minutemen from Acton to Concord, playing his fife as they approached the Old North Bridge. There, he was wounded and became one of the first casualties of the American Revolution.

Boxborough celebrated its very first Fifer's Day almost 200 years after Luther's march to Concord. In 1967, in anticipation of the upcoming Revolutionary

War bicentennial events, Boxborough citizens formed the Boxborough Minutemen Company to "perpetuate the memory of the Minutemen of 1775 and their historic fight for the cause of liberty and justice."

In July 1967, the Minutemen collaborated with the Boxborough Public Celebrations Committee to commemorate Boxborough's contributions to the American Revolution with the first "Fifer's Festival." (While the town of Boxborough did not exist in 1775, Luther Blanchard lived in the portion of Littleton that later became Boxborough and he is on the Boxborough town seal.). It was, essentially, a town-wide Fourth of July picnic including a parade, cookout, and children's games.

Though 1967 marks the birth of Fifer's Day, that certainly wasn't the first time the town came together to share food and drink. Fifer's Day follows in a rich Boxborough tradition of gathering with neighbors. As a tiny farming community, Boxborough often celebrated weddings, anniversaries, and other milestones with none other than a town-wide bash.



Since the 1960s, Fifer's Day has grown and changed. The date has shifted from July to June, the location has changed several times, and attendance has grown considerably. It now includes the presentation of the Golden Fife award, a road race, a volleyball tournament, and important fundraising by the Minutemen Company and other local non-profit organizations. But at its core, Fifer's Day remains a town party.

While Boxborough has grown from the days when the entire town could gather for a potluck dinner, Fifer's Day continues to evoke the same small-town spirit. And it reminds us that we're part of a community that has been here, enjoying parties and picnics with neighbors, for centuries.



Fifer's Day 2022 Schedule

Time	Event
9:30 AM	Fifer's Four Mile Road Race Start at Flerra Meadows Awards follow completion
11:00 AM	Parade Parade steps off at Blanchard School Ends at Flerra Meadows (via Stow Road)
12:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Food and Drink Hot Dogs, Burgers, Chicken, Sausage, Soft Drinks, Beer & Wine
12:30 PM - 5:00PM	Music Rocky Woods Express 12:30-2:30 Tom Yates Group 3:30-5:30
12:30 PM - 5:00PM	Kids Games Bouncy Castles and Dunk Tank
12:30 PM - 5:00PM	Kids Train Rides
12:30 PM - 5:00PM	Craft Fair Exhibits, Booths
1:00 PM - 5:00PM	Volleyball 1:00 Tournament starts 5:00 Volleyball awards

Meet Boxborough's New Elected Officials

On May 17th, Boxborough elected ten individuals, including three incumbents up for re-election, to town government positions. The Boxborough Bee reached out to each with the following questions: (1) Why did you decide to run (or run again) for this position; (2) What do you hope to accomplish during your term; and (3) What is your favorite place/activity in town?

Editor's Note: In addition to the nine individuals listed below, Mark White was re-elected to the Planning Board. Unfortunately, he was unable to be reached in time for inclusion in this survey.



Jim Comolli, Board of Health

1. I've been wanting to get involved in a Boxborough board or committee so that I could give something back to the town where I've lived for 16 years. This past year I interacted with the Boxborough Planning Board and Board of Health regarding the town's biosafety regulations, so when a position on the BoH opened up I saw it as the opportunity to jump in. It will be difficult to replace Bryan Lynch's wisdom and expertise, but I hope that my background as a biologist and experience in analyzing and interpreting data can help to continue to protect the health of Boxborough residents.

2. Boxborough has a number of ongoing important health safety issues, including septic and well concerns (including PFAS monitoring), COVID, and biosafety, that I'd like to help our town stay on top of. I'd also like to work to better educate residents and keep them informed about these issues. Lastly, I'd like to improve the interaction and communication of the BoH with other Boxborough town committees.
3. I enjoy walking with my dogs around Flerra Meadows, Steele Farm, Flagg Hill, and Half Moon Meadow. But I most enjoy hiking with them through the Flagg Hill conservation area, especially in the winter.

Elizabeth Fowlks, School Committee

1. I decided to run for the school committee because I knew there was a need and want to lend my help where I can. I also have a vested interest in our school district since I have two young boys.
2. Realistically, I would like to be an open-minded and collaborative member of the committee. Ideally, I would love to help balance the resources available to our students, whether they be special education, gifted and talented, all, or none of those things. I want our students to have equitable access to their education.
3. Sargent Memorial Library, hands down!



Wesley Fowlks, Select Board

1. I would call myself a lifetime learner. I decided to run again because I acknowledge that the Town is in a time of transition, and I am proud of the work I have done so far, and I wanted to give the residents the opportunity to allow me to continue serving them.
2. Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery and today is a gift, that's why it's called the present. But my hope is to adequately staff Town Hall as well as to help the Town to become competitive and try new approaches to attract and retain staff at Town Hall.
3. Fifer's Day, hands down



Reeves Briggs, Library Trustees

1. Since moving to Boxborough in 2005, I have appreciated how lucky we are to have such a great library in town. This year, I had the opportunity to get more involved by participating in the library's strategic planning advisory committee. I enjoyed the experience and want to continue working alongside people who recognize what an important role the library plays in our community.
2. As a new library trustee, I have a lot to learn about the operation of the library and how I can best serve its mission. I hope to help the library adapt to changing technology and to ensure that it can serve the needs of our entire community.
3. My family and I love spending time walking in Boxborough's conservation land. Two of our favorites are the Hager Land behind the library and Elizabeth Brook Knoll.

Rebecca Harris, Town Clerk

1. Now that I have a taste of the complexities of this job, I realize it will always be interesting! I've been the Temporary Town Clerk since last July, and now feel like I have a decent handle on the various duties. I've been enjoying it, even though it may be stressful at times.
2. I hope to bring some consistency and stability to Town Hall. I want residents to know they can count on a friendly presence in the Clerk's office, and I will do my best to keep elections, public records access, town meeting, vital records access, voter registration, dog licenses, transfer station stickers, appointments, and everything else in this department running smoothly!
3. It's hard to name just one, but Steele Farm sledding with my kids has to be number one, and a close second for nearly daily activity is running my 3 mile loop around Sargent/Littlefield/Depot!



Dennis Reip, Town Moderator

1. For the first time in nearly 20 years, the elected position of Town Moderator will not have a trusted and experienced incumbent candidate on the ballot. As a long serving Chair of the Conservation Commission and Community Preservation Committee I have earned a reputation for efficiency, fairness, and respect for process. I welcome this opportunity to continue my longstanding service to the Town in a new role as its next Moderator.
2. The Moderator runs Town Meeting following well established and accepted procedures that provide for a fair and productive meeting experience for all in attendance. I will strive to accomplish this and to meet the high standard established by the outgoing Moderator. I will also seek ways to improve the meeting process and experience in cooperation with the Select Board and Town Administrator.
3. I always enjoy Fifer's Day. As a Boxborough Minuteman for over 10 years, I have been part of the large group of Town volunteers dedicated to making it all happen, and although I cannot attend this year, I am looking forward to the return of Fifer's Day this coming June 18th.

Robert McNeece, Library Trustees

1. I have been a trustee before and through the building of the new library. With the library's strategic plan taking shape, I did not want to leave the board before it had been finished. I want to be able to provide the board with a senior's perspective and also offer some historical context to our newer trustees.
2. The library is nearing the end of a strategic planning process. I am running again to help bring the plan to fruition.
3. I love being outside in Boxborough; walking, hiking, and tending my yard. My favorite places, other than my home, are Flerra Meadows and the Sargent Memorial Library.

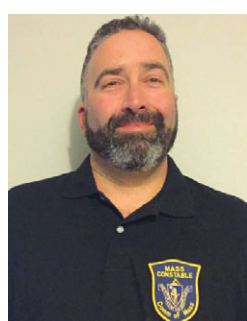


Kathleen Vorce, Planning Board

1. I decided to run for Planning Board based on a collection of occasions dealing with the Planning Board or its Administrator or attending Board meetings where I came away with a sense of frustration. Those experiences have given me some ideas to make the public interaction with the Board more constructive and more satisfying.
2. I would hope to make changes that will assist people like myself to age-in-place and on the other end to expand the housing market for young families. I also want to create incentives for businesses and development within Boxborough to be "greener" and to mitigate climate change.
3. My favorite place in Boxborough, not surprisingly, is my home. It has been home and work, learning and aesthetic expression, creating new and honoring the historical, for over forty years. Many details could not have been accomplished without the participation of kind Boxborough neighbors - and there are plenty of stories and memories stored there.

Andrew Weiner, Constable

11. My Family and I moved here in July of 2018. Aside from being appointed Deputy Constable when we lived in Chelmsford, I decided to run here, because I feel this would be a great way to serve my community. I bring 10 years LEO experience as An Auxiliary Poice Officer for both Gloucester (my home town) and Newton. Also, I am a member of BERC (Boxborough Emergency Reserve Corps) since 2019.
2. A constable's MO is simple and usually the same in all Massachusetts communities. For Boxborough, I plan on serving the town meeting warrants as needed for the clerks office and other town offices. For the community, I will be able to serve all civil processes, including small claims dockets as well as other civil processes. I will also be able to do fact finding for attorneys as well as private citizens when needed.
3. Since moving here, aside from the usual neighborly things, I love the trails around Cisco, which is a 2 minute walk from Harvard Ridge where I live.



Free Bee Market is Back!

The Free Bee Market on the church lawn at UCC Boxborough is back for 2022! The Free Bee Market was formed in the wake of the pandemic and the Swanson road fire last year. These experiences emphasized the importance and power of a central, volunteer-driven team to connect neighbors to share access to food, resources, and services. So the Free Bee Market was born, made up of gleaned produce and prepared dishes from Roche Bros, frozen meat from Shaws, plants and flowers grown by neighbors, and treats baked by our community. Local community groups are there to share info and fun too! Sustainability, community and food-sharing created a winning trifecta that continued to grow last year.

Our first market date was May 21 and it was a busy one! Crowds gathered and food and plants were shared with just empty tables left in less than an hour!

The next one is coming up on **June 11**, followed by **August 20, September 10** and **October 15**. We set up Saturday mornings and start sharing at 10:30, done by noon (Or sooner if the goods run out!) The organizers recognize that this may be a very busy season for many, so the market is a little scaled down and simplified, but the essential ingredients of food, agriculture and connections are still there!

Come to meet neighbors, share surplus, and enjoy this chance to learn more about what's happening in and around Boxborough. Local community groups are more than welcome, just bring your own table and tent and you're ready to go!





FreeBee MARKET
Saturdays, 10:30am-noon
May 21, June 11, Aug 20, Sept 10, Oct 15
Community Center lawn @30 Middle Road, Boxborough MA
"A mix of Harvest Fair and a Free Farmer's Market"



Why Should I Visit the FreeBee Market?
Free food – fruit, veggies, baked goods & craft supplies
Reduce food waste – you can help!
Engage with people in your community
Entertain donating your excess produce & baked treats
Begin growing your own food – receive free seedlings
Exchange ideas at the info tables of local groups
Enjoy and #BeeConnected!

All welcome! ~ Everything is free! ~ #BeeConnected
  @freebeecommunity or freebeecommunity@gmail.com

Update from the Boxborough Conservation Trust

Town Meeting Votes to Protect 95 Sargent Road



Boxborough achieved a great conservation success as Town Meeting voters overwhelmingly approved the Town's acquisition of 21-1/2 acres of prime wooded upland on 95 and 105 Sargent Road. The BCTrust readily led the effort to marshal Town support, get out the vote, and reduce the cost to the Town through donations and a grant from the Fields Pond Foundation. Our regional land Trust, Sudbury Valley Trustees, will also play a key role by becoming the "interim landowner", allowing the Town to apply for the state's Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant.

Town Meeting voters assured this natural resource will be serving the Town for decades to come. Identified in the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan as a priority parcel for conservation, this wooded upland captures and filters rainfall, recharging the aquifer to assure drinking water. The many species of wildlife, including fox, otters, coyote, owls, warblers, and amphibians (who breed in the abutting wetlands on Rolling Meadow), will have their habitat secured with this vote. With almost 20 acres on the main parcel, the Conservation Commission will be able to create a trail from Sargent Road to Littlefield Road, ultimately creating a continuous five-mile hiking option.

If you would like to make a difference, the BCTrust is still accepting donations for this project to further reduce the tax impact. Go to: <https://bctrust.org/donate/> and choose Donate to Support Sargent Road Acquisition on the lower right side of the page. The Boxborough Conservation Trust is a 501(3)(c) non-profit organization.

Update from the Sustainability Committee



Energize Boxborough

The Boxborough Sustainability Committee (BSC) announces the official launch of Energize Boxborough at Fifer's Day, June 18, 2022. Come to our booth:

- learn about our website, www.EnergizeBoxborough.org
- participate in a raffle for bags of Black Earth compost
- support the new recycling and composting system at Fifer's Day

The BSC Climate Survey shows Boxborough residents believe climate change is real and want to respond through personal, town, and state actions. Energize Boxborough encourages residents to take impactful action in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and increase local resilience.

2040 Challenge

Do you want to do your bit to save the planet and have bragging rights? Here's your chance! Create a Personal Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and earn a "2040 button" by putting your PCAP on the **Energize Boxborough** website. Don't know how to start? Contact Marjorie Kamp (marjoriek@comcast.net), your guide and leader for 2040 and PCAP, along with Boxborough's head librarian, Peishan Bartley. **Please put 2040 in the subject line.**



Aiming for Zero Waste – Fifer's Day 2022

The Sustainability Committee and Boxborough Minutemen are collaborating to achieve zero waste at Fifer's Day. Much of the event's waste stream is food related, such as, food scraps, plastic cups/utensils/plates, plastic water bottles, food, and cardboard. The plan is to have 3 stations with 3 bins per station: Compost – Recycle – Trash. Compostable utensils and cups go right in the compost bin with corn cobs! Amazing. Let's see how close to zero waste we can get.

News From the Library

Dear Readers,

Library is a book place, a story place, and an information place. It is a thinking place, a people place, and a place of activities, events, and programs. How can you keep up with the ideas that are being bandied about and activities that are taking place in the library? There are a few options:

1. Subscribe to our digital newsletter – Wowbrary (<https://wowbrary.org/signup.aspx>). Wowbrary is a weekly newsletter. Every issue includes a list of new additions to our collection, and Library news and announcements. Now while you can get Library news and announcements from other sources, Wowbrary is unique because you get to see what is new in the library the week they were added to our catalog. You can read their synopsis and even reviews, and request them directly from the link in the newsletter!
2. Pick up a paper copy or check out the digital copy of our quarterly review. These reviews include librarian picks and event highlights.
3. Follow us on our social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. These channels are your best source for timely updates and spur of the moment posts.
4. And of course, read our entries here in the Bee or, if you get the senior newsletter, the monthly Buzz.

If you do any of the above, you will soon read about our Summer Reading Program! As day lengthens and the weather warms, we at the Library are looking forward to summer! Do you know that the Library hosts a Summer Reading Program every year? In past years, we have made young readers our emphasis. This year however, we would like to invite the adults to join in! Create an account on the Summer Reading Program site Beanstack (available Monday 6/6 via our website: boxlib.org). You can track your reading there, complete a few activities to earn a sweet treat at our end-of-summer celebrations, or do all the challenges and win a pin and a prize. I don't know about you, but I would not at all mind having a pin that proclaims my super reader or library lover status.

Following the Library's news and announcements means you will also hear about two nature journaling workshops we have scheduled, one on Thursday 6/30 at 4pm, and one on Thursday 7/21 at 5pm. The first one is an introductory session that will be held in a hybrid format; the second one will be in person where you can practice nature journaling with an instructor. Later on, we are hosting a virtual session on LGBTQ+ Basic and Beyond for anyone with questions about LGBTQ+ issues that need answering (Wednesday 8/24, 7pm).

The Library will also be announcing the formation of a new book club! Look for the official announcement, ask about it at the desk, or send us an email (illbx@cwmmars.org) for more details.

And finally, let me share news from another library with you. Our Library belongs to CWMARS (Central and Western Massachusetts Automated Resource Sharing) library network, where member libraries support each other and share resources. One of the members, Hopkinton Public Library, is now offering Memory Care Kits made specially for people with memory or cognitive concerns and their caregivers. Each kit has a theme, and may include a book, a puzzle, a craft, music, and more. Example themes include: Winter, Baseball, Pets, The 1960s, and For the Caregiver. These Memory Care Kits can be requested through interlibrary loan. You can request them through our catalog, or we can help you reserve one.

The above are just what we have planned for the Summer. More is coming in the Fall. Be sure to subscribe to our newsletter, or follow us online to stay up to date!

From the Youth Librarian:

We're going to go Beyond the Beaten Path this summer to focus on nature, hiking, camping, and reading! Kids and teenagers will each have their own Beanstack challenges, and participants will earn pins and prizes, including a special treat at our end-of-summer concert! There are also so many summer programs and events that we can't list them all, but here are a few teasers:

- **Campout Kickoff Party**
 - **Classes from Hands on Nature**
 - **Art workshops with Hongbing Tang**
 - **Family Movie Mondays**
 - **Drum Circle with Tim Kane**
- **Dungeons And Dragons**
 - **Wanderhome (a really fun DnD-like game where all of the characters are talking animals)**
 - **A visit from a Forester...and weekly storytimes, crafts, and STEAM activities!**

If you want to keep up-to-date with all of the Youth Services news at the library (including details on how to register for Summer Reading activities), sign up for our email list at boxlib.org/services/childrens/get-email-updates.



Sargent Memorial Library Developing Five-Year Strategic Plan

The Boxborough Bee spoke with Sargent Memorial Library Director Peishan Bartley about the creation and implementation of the Library's Strategic Plan. Below are our ten questions and Bartley's responses.

1. We've heard that the library is developing a "Strategic Plan." What does that mean?

A strategic plan is like a roadmap that guides the direction of an organization. It may include a mission statement that defines what the organization aims to achieve, a vision statement that describes what the organization would like to become, goals that are a set of specific targets that would help the organization complete its mission, and objectives which are actionable items that would help the organization meet its goal. The Library is developing a 5-year strategic plan that will be used to set the course of the Library's operation and priorities for fiscal years 2023-2028.

2. Why is the library developing a Strategic Plan now?

Any organization needs to have a directive that points to a better future. The nature of libraries and the services we provide has been changing as the world changes around us. We have been adapting and adopting new practices by what we see the community need, but we need a comprehensive plan to ensure that our actions are not patchworks, but a cohesive endeavor. The strategic planning process started with gathering information about and from the community. We looked at not just what the Library means to Boxborough residents, but what the Town means to people and what they wish the Town would be. We then examined how the Library fits into the grand picture, and how it can help move the Town towards these ideals as well as providing the services that the community requires. With the plan, the Library will be able to make guided decisions and take purposeful actions. I hope that once this plan expires, we will have a new plan in place so that we can continue to move forward.

3. What is your role in developing the Strategic Plan?

As the Library director, I am leading the planning process with the help of a strategic planning consultant.

4. What are the different ways the library is soliciting input from the community?

Formally, we gather community input through our Strategic Planning Advisory Board, focus groups, and a community survey. We also welcome any input through email or even in person. I sincerely thank all of those who participated in the Advisory Board, came to a focus group, or filled out a survey. The information you've given us is read, analyzed, and thoroughly appreciated.

5. What is the most surprising thing you've learned while developing the Strategic Plan?

I was most surprised by people being surprised by what libraries are doing and have on offer. As a librarian, we are attuned to public library service practices and trends, many of which are expansions of the traditional library model. And this is where I need to urge all readers to subscribe to the Library's digital newsletter, or/and follow us on our social media pages (we are most active on Facebook and Instagram) to stay up to date on Library news!



6. When will the Strategic Plan be finalized, and will it be available for the public to read?

We are hoping to have the Strategic Plan finalized by the end of July and submitted to the MBLC (Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners). Submitting the plan to the State will open the door to even more State-wide grants and funds for the Library.

7. How and when will the Strategic Plan be implemented?

Once the strategic plan has been finalized, we will immediately start working on an action plan using the Goals and Objectives as guide. The action plan will consist of concrete steps we will take to reach our goals and fulfill our mission. I can't wait to get started on it!

8. What part of the Strategic Plan are you most excited to implement?

The part that I most look forward to doing is a review of the use of our interior space. The current Library was designed in 2003 and opened in 2005 when streaming services and digital media was in its early stage. As technology evolves, so does the way information and media are published. For example, many of the reference book sets that were golden staples in libraries are no longer in print form and are only available online. The many shelves that used to house these reference books now sit empty or are underused and taking up valuable real estate in the Library. I am excited to delve into how we can change things around and use the space creatively and efficiently.

9. There's a lot of buzz recently about "Library of Things." What is a "Library of Things" and to what extent is this part of the library's Strategic Plan?

Library of Things is not entirely new in the library field, and is a very good indicator of how library collections have branched out and diversified from the traditional books, movies, and music. We started a Library of Things collection in 2017 with the addition of a telescope that was quickly joined by a few hotspots. The collection now includes 2 telescopes, 10 hotspots, 1 ukulele, 2 birding kits, and 1 induction stove top. The challenge for us is to find the space to properly store and display the items, which makes the rethinking of our space usage even more critical. The Library of Things will likely fall under one of the goals about the Library's collection in the strategic plan.

10. Anything else you would like folks to know about the Strategic Plan?

The strategic plan is a beginning. Much will follow after. Please stay tuned!

Volunteer Profile: Nancy Settle-Murphy

When Nancy Settle-Murphy moved to town in 1983, she chose Boxborough purely for the proximity to her company's offices and purchased a simple "starter home." Almost 40 years later, she has become a Trustee of the Sargent Memorial Library, served on the Town Personnel Board, and volunteers with many local organizations -- and is still living in her "starter home"! "I can't imagine living anywhere else," she says.

Nancy began volunteering when her twin daughters started kindergarten at Blanchard Elementary. Her job at the time gave her some flexibility, and she volunteered in their classrooms every Monday.

Nancy also joined Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ), a local organization that allows towns, including Acton and Boxborough, to pursue a restorative justice option when a young person commits a crime. For almost 20 years now, Nancy has worked directly with the young people who are referred to the program and helps them make reparations so that they can avoid a permanent court record. She also helps to train and mentor newer facilitators.

"I feel like I have been able to make a real difference in so many peoples' lives over the years, helping them to understand the impact of their decisions, and to make better choices in the future," Nancy explains. "We expect a lot from people who complete the program, which typically takes about three months, and they learn so much along the way. And I learn a lot from them, too!"

Later, Nancy's volunteer work expanded to town government and to the library. She served Boxborough as a member of the Town Personnel Board until last June, and she was elected to the Sargent Memorial Library Board of Trustees, where she has served for the past five years.

Her position on the Library Board of Trustees has been particularly interesting because "the Library is constantly evolving. Like many other libraries, ours has gone through such a transformation in terms of how patrons like to consume content, and the how our facilities are used," Nancy explains. "We're winding up a long-term strategic planning effort, and will use input from community members to make changes."

Last year, Nancy took on yet another community project and was elected to the Board of the Acton-Boxborough United Way. "We are a very active, involved Board that works hard to ensure that all members of the Acton-Boxborough community have access to services they need. Many people are surprised to learn that some 1,000 families in the area live at or below the poverty level."



This year, Nancy is taking on another project to benefit her community. After the Boxborough Well-Being Committee approached her with concerns about animosity prevalent in virtual town board and committee meetings, she agreed to donate her professional skills and time to Boxborough in the form of a town-wide workshop program scheduled for September 2022.

"I'll be running a workshop for to help meeting leaders create a safe, respectful environment where all voices can be heard. This isn't easy, especially in a virtual setting where many people are overly eager to share their ideas, while others say nothing. I'll be offering tips and tactics about how to handle challenging participants, such as the dominator, the interrupter, the contrarian, the side-tracker, the multitasker and the quiet ones."

When not volunteering, Nancy has her own management consulting company where she teaches facilitation skills, facilitates meetings, leads unconscious bias workshops, and offers consulting, training and coaching to organizations who are struggling in their transition to a remote/hybrid world.

Outside of work, she can be found walking local trails with her pup and friends, spending time with her 22-year-old twin daughters, inventing new recipes, reading, writing, gardening, traveling, socializing, entertaining, watching movies, and playing poker with a group of local Boxborough friends.

ABFN To Host Free Kids Clothing & Toy Swap in Acton

On Saturday, June 4th from 8am-10am the Acton-Boxborough Family Network (ABFN) will host a Spring Clothing & Toy Swap at the Parker Damon Upper Lot at 11 Charter Road in Acton. The swap will be open to the public and free to attend -- anyone and everyone can come donate and/or "shop" the event! Interested in donating clothes or toys? ABFN seeks gently used clothes in sizes newborn through kids size 6. Donors are asked to please sort clothes into bags labeled with sizes, if possible. No stained or ripped clothing, please. Shoes will not be accepted. Donations can be dropped off in advance at six Acton locations: 23 Evergreen Rd. Acton, 97 Concord Rd. Acton, 1 Assabet Xing Acton, 11 Whittier Dr. Acton, and 24 Smart Rd. Acton.

Any items remaining at the end of the event will be donated to local charities. For more information and further donation guidelines visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ABFNSwapJune2022>. Questions? Contact Debbie Mecca at dmecca@abfamily.org.

ABFN Returns with Annual Kindergarten Social

Please join the Acton-Boxborough Family Network on Sunday, June 5th from 10AM - 12PM at the Goward Playground at the Acton Memorial Library for our Annual Kindergarten Social! This is a FREE and OPEN event to all Acton-Boxborough students entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2022! Come and meet some of the families and future classmates for the rising kindergarteners. There will be a school bus to explore, local organizations to meet, as well as color-coded name tags so that you can easily connect with students and families destined for the same school.

For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ABFNKindySocial2022>. Questions? Contact Kristen Callahan at kcallahan@abfamily.org.

Come see Boxborough's Treasures

The Boxborough Museum at 575 Middle Road will be open from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Sunday June 12, July 10 and August 14. Come see Boxborough's historic treasures including the 1850's scale which is sensitive enough to weigh a penny and strong enough to calibrate a 50 pound weight, the "new" hearse built in 1881, and the "old" hearse (come and see how old is old). Admission is free and all are welcome. For more information or if anyone wishes to arrange a private tour for a small group at a different time please call John Fallon at 978-264-0069.

A-B United Way Welcomes Each New Neighbor

The Acton-Boxborough Welcome Initiative, a project of Acton-Boxborough United Way and the AB Racial Justice Collaborative, welcomes new residents to Acton and Boxborough. Volunteers bring new residents a gift bag of information useful to know when you first move to the area. Inside the bag is a welcome placard that says WELCOME in several different languages, and contains a QR code and website (bit.ly/AB-welcome) that links to all kinds of resources and groups to join and meet other people. There is information on school registration, clubs, organizations, sports, the libraries, town halls, voting, English Language learning, and many other things.

Volunteers are given a list of recent homes sold in their neighborhood, and they go out and say hi, and give out a gift bag. People have been pleasantly surprised to be welcomed in this way, and have a connection to someone living nearby. We would like to have a volunteer in every neighborhood if possible. Currently we are looking for volunteers in Boxborough around Mass Ave, Flerra and Liberty Square. We are especially looking for volunteers in the different apartment complexes throughout town. If you would like to volunteer to help in your neighborhood, please join us. More info at <https://www.abuw.org/community-resources>.



The Boxborough Minutemen Company Wants You!

The Boxborough Company of Minutemen will hold a Company meeting on Sunday June 12 in the Minuteman Grill at the Boxboro Regency Hotel. Socializing will start at 7:30 pm; the business meeting will start at 8 pm. For information please contact Captain Dave Bull at captain@boxboroughminutemen.org, or 978-263-5607.

The Boxborough Minutemen Company is open to anyone of at least 18 years of age who is interested in service to the Town and/or perpetuating the memory of the Minutemen of 1775. Our members may participate in any number of the Company's activities including marching in parades, organizing the annual Fifer's Day town festival, performing seasonal clean-ups on Route 111, sponsoring the Boy and Cub Scouts, providing volunteers to the Blanchard School and other service organizations, and participating in our various social functions. The Company also provides financial support to a variety of service organizations and sponsors a number of annual scholarships to Boxborough students who are continuing their education after high school.

Both old and new residents of the town are welcome to come and make new connections with others in town.

For more information visit www.boxboroughminutemen.org.

RESOURCES



First Connections is a family resource center whose mission is to provide comprehensive, quality, parenting support services to families with children birth through school age. Some of the programs offered by First Connections include: facilitated playgroups, parent support groups, educational seminars, home visits, challenging child support, weekend activities, adoptive family support. More info at <https://www.firstconnections.org/> or contact the director, Deborah Werneburg at (978) 429-8284 x201.



Are you beginning to think about camp and summer programs for your child/children? Are you concerned about affording a program? The Doli Atamian Campership Program is an all-volunteer organization raising funds to provide a camp or summer experience for children of low-income families in the Acton or Boxborough area. To learn more about their program and application process, go to www.doliatamiancampership.com/.



Know Us Before You Need Us!

As a non-profit agency serving 16 communities, we are passionate about our mission to empower and advocate for those impacted by aging and disability. We offer information and supportive services that enhance health, well-being and independence. We provide up-to-date resource information and referrals to community services, care management and in-home care, Meals on Wheels and congregate dining, elder protective services, assistance with budgeting and bill-paying, Medicare benefits counseling, caregiver support and much more. Many of our services are free of charge, others are available on a sliding fee or private pay basis. We want you to know us before you need us and when you need some help, just contact us at 888-222-6171 or elderinfo@minutemansenior.org Additional info on www.minutemansenior.org



Veteran Services in Boxborough

Are you a Veteran or surviving spouse who's curious about benefits you may be entitled to? Contact James MacRae, Veteran Service Officer for Acton and Boxborough, at 978-929-6614 or jmacrae@actonma.gov. There are a wide array of State and Federal Veteran Benefits you may be eligible for. These benefits include financial assistance, medical coverage, obtaining missing discharge papers, applying for service connected disability and more. There are no costs associated with my services and confidentiality is completely respected.